



SAFETY Network

September 2007

www.michigan.gov/ohsp

New Michigan safety-focused speed program moves forward

EMPHASIS ON "SPEED MANAGEMENT" BUILDS ON WORK OF PREVIOUS STATE TASK FORCE

After years of taking a back seat to safety belts and other high priority traffic safety issues, vehicle speeds are again in the spotlight not only in Michigan but across the nation.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is working with the states to establish comprehensive speed management programs. This involves identifying high-crash locations, promoting use of more standardized state training and enforcement practices and standards, and creating an integrated approach between law enforcement, traffic engineers, and local government officials.

Michigan was one of six states that took part in a national speed management workshop this year hosted by NHTSA. Participating organizations from Michigan included the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), Michigan Department of State Police, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Judicial Institute, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Sheriffs' Association, and the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates.

Excessive speed is a constant problem for traffic safety. It increases the number and severity of crashes and, like alcohol-involvement, it is common in the more severe crashes. From 2002 to 2006, 20 percent of fatal crashes and 13 percent of injury crashes involved a driver coded with "speed too fast" as a hazardous action. It is the single most common hazardous action in fatal crashes.

Speed management involves a balanced program effort that includes:

- >> Defining the relationship between speed, speeding, and safety;
- >> Applying road design and engineering measures to obtain appropriate speeds;
- >> Setting speed limits that are safe and reasonable;
- >> Applying enforcement efforts and appropriate technology that effectively address speeders and deter speeding;
- >> Marketing communication and educational messages that focus on high-risk drivers;
- >> Soliciting the cooperation, support and leadership of traffic safety stakeholders.

OHSP originally convened the Michigan Radar Task Force, later renamed the Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force, in 1978 to serve as an advisory body to OHSP, studying and evaluating issues surrounding the use of traffic radar in speed enforcement in Michigan. The task force was comprised of various constituent entities with expertise in the use of radar technology.

According to Michael L. Prince, OHSP director, "We want to build on the work of the Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force which provided the original recommendations and guidelines on speed measurement for law enforcement, courts, and prosecutors. These guidelines are still in use, and while they are volun-

Continued on page 3 >



Motorists over the limit, were under arrest during statewide crackdown

Law enforcement officers in fifty-five counties across Michigan were working overtime August 17 – September 3 as part of the *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* crackdown. In addition, in an effort to ensure drunk drivers pay for their crimes, additional officers conducted warrant sweeps for individuals wanted for previous alcohol-related charges.

Extra officers were out in force to look for and arrest drunk drivers during the statewide campaign which was coordinated by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. Federal traffic safety funds for overtime enforcement were provided to nearly 230 agencies to boost patrols in selected areas and paid advertising was funded to ensure widespread awareness of the crackdown.

At least forty-five agencies conducted warrant sweeps in twenty-eight counties during the two-week crackdown. In a 2006 pilot project, four counties conducted sweeps, resulting in 295 arrests on outstanding warrants, 268 of those for alcohol-related offenses.

Continued on page 2 >

SAFETY Network



Bay County Sheriff John Miller announces the start of Intersection Enforcement Week

Law enforcement officers across Michigan participate in Intersection Enforcement Week

Red-light runners beware: law enforcement officers across Michigan patrolled high-crash intersections in their counties during Intersection Enforcement Week, July 22-28, and had the option to conduct additional intersection patrols throughout the summer.

More than 100 agencies in Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Eaton, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Mason, Menominee, Monroe, Muskegon, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford took part in the enforcement effort.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning administered federal traffic safe-

ty funds for the overtime intersection enforcement patrols. Agencies determined the intersections to enforce and the best time of day to set up patrols by analyzing local crash data.

More than 29 percent of crashes in Michigan in 2006 occurred in intersections, according to the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. These intersection crashes resulted in 281 fatalities (26 percent of the total) and 2,860 incapacitating injuries (33 percent of the total).

From 2003 to 2006, Michigan has experienced a reduction of 25,363 intersection crashes, 81 fatalities and 1,058 serious injuries.

Last call for drowsy driving symposium

Time is running out to register for the September 20, Wake Up Michigan! Symposium. The day-long event will be held at the Steelcase University Learning Center, Town Hall, in Grand Rapids. Registration forms are available online at www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

The conference will focus on the importance of sleep, drowsy driving dangers, at-risk groups, countermeasures and emerging technologies, the legal and leg-

islative impact of drowsy driving, fatigue from an officer's point of view, and employer risks and return on investment.

The symposium is targeted toward employers, law enforcement, engineers, and commercial motor vehicle fleets.

The cost is \$50. For more information, contact Dan Vartanian at the Office of Highway Safety Planning at (517) 333-5322 or vartanid@michigan.gov.

DRUNK DRIVING CRACKDOWN

continued from page 1 >

Two pilot projects to increase the visibility of drunk driving enforcement took place in Kalamazoo County. Mobile billboards about the crackdown roamed the streets for three weekends, and electronic message signs were installed in forty patrol cars. These highly visible signs were mounted in the rear window or roof of the patrol car and were programmed with messages promoting the type of enforcement detail being conducted.

Last year, Michigan experienced an 8 percent increase in alcohol and/or drug-related traffic fatalities, which now represents just over 40 percent of all traffic deaths, the highest percentage the state has recorded in more than ten years. In 2006, 440 people died and 7,678 were injured in alcohol and/or drug-related crashes on Michigan roadways. During the 2006 Labor Day weekend, eight people died in traffic crashes, two of which involved alcohol.

The fifty-five counties receiving federal traffic safety funding for overtime patrols included: Allegan, Alpena, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clinton, Delta, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Iron, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Mackinac, Macomb, Manistiquie, Marquette, Mason, Menominee, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Otsego, Ottawa, Roscommon, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford.



SAFETY Network



SPEED PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD

continued from page 1 >

tary in nature, they provide important ongoing guidance for the enforcement and adjudicative process. We now want to use that foundation to create a more comprehensive program for speed management and speed-related crash reduction in Michigan."

In June of this year, the task force was disbanded as part of a shift to a more comprehensive Speed Management Program and a formalized system for maintaining the continued integrity of speed measurement in Michigan. Through a partnership between the OHSP and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), MCOLES will take the lead on the establishment of the first formal speed measurement standards for the state.

Through funding from OHSP, MCOLES will begin work October 1 on a project that will result in the establishment of the state's first formal statewide standards for speed measurement in the following areas:

- >> Radar/lidar operator training
- >> Radar/lidar instructor training
- >> Procurement of speed measurement equipment
- >> Speed equipment performance specifications

MCOLES has statutory responsibilities to prepare and publish mandatory minimum recruitment, selection, and training standards for entry-level law enforcement officers in the state of Michigan. The law also requires MCOLES to define in-service training received by Michigan law enforcement officers. More than 600 law enforcement agencies employ over

21,000 officers operating under commission standards.

According to Raymond W. Beach, executive director of MCOLES, "This is a natural fit for MCOLES and as one of the original task force member agencies, we are well positioned as the regulatory body over law enforcement standards to provide oversight on this issue." Beach went on to say, "It is imperative that speed enforcement be properly regulated to ensure that it is accomplished in a manner consistent with established state guidelines, standards, and case law in order to preserve due process rights."

MCOLES will also work in cooperation with the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan (PAAM) and the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJJI) which will update guidance for the courts on the adjudication of radar/lidar speed cases.

According to Beach, "It is important that whether you are trained in Detroit or Keeweenaw County, that there is consistency with regard to speed enforcement."

Beach went on to say, "Everyone who is providing speed measurement instruction must be working with the same set of standards and all law enforcement agencies should adhere to formal state standards with regard to the use of proper equipment. We also want to ensure that there are a sufficient number of instructors trained to the state standards to meet the training needs of the law enforcement community. Due to continued budget constraints at the state and local level, we need to accomplish this in a cost-effective manner for law enforcement."

In the Michigan Court of Appeals case *People v Ferency*, 133 Mich App 526 (1984),

the court identified seven guidelines that must be met in order to allow speed readings into evidence in court. To ensure that the adjudication of speed-related violations continues to be effective, the OHSP has offered funding support in FY08 for PAAM and the MJJI to provide updated training to prosecutors, magistrates, and judges regarding speed enforcement training, operation, and technology standards as well as case law updates and other important information.

According to Prince, "The courts are integral parts of the success of a speed management program and we want to work with the appropriate organizations to ensure their ongoing needs for training and information are met."

While speed enforcement is probably the most visible aspect of this issue, it is only effective if the speed limits are properly set to begin with. Speeds that are artificially low can be just as dangerous, creating hazardous speed differentials between vehicles that result in crashes, not to mention aggressive driving behavior. One of the goals of OHSP is to conduct a series of workshops around the state to help local communities create multi-disciplinary speed management workgroups to implement localized plans that identify specific speeding and speeding-related crash problems and the actions necessary to address problems and to establish the credibility of posted speed limits.

What's Ahead

OCTOBER

International Walk to School Month
www.walktoschool.org

1-5 **Drive Safely Work Week**
www.trafficsafety.org

3 **International Walk to School Day**
www.walktoschool.org

21-27 **National School Bus Safety Week**
www.napt.org

SAFETY Network

Michigan's safety belt use remains high, steady

Michigan's safety belt use rate remains relatively unchanged at 94 percent. Wayne State University's Transportation Research Group conducted the direct observation survey in the late spring, in conjunction with the annual statewide safety belt mobilization.

Last year, Michigan's safety belt use rate rose to 94.1 percent, second only to Washington state for 2006. It will be several months before all 2007 safety belt

use rates are certified and officially announced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

While the number indicates exceptionally high safety belt use in the state, it reflects daylight use rates. Nationally and in Michigan, greater attention is being focused on nighttime belt use. Crash statistics indicate belt use falls significantly during late night and early morning hours.

OHSP awarded Telly for safety belt PSA



A public service announcement (PSA) by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning has received a bronze Telly in the 28th Annual Telly Award Competition. This year's competition

was one of the most competitive in the history of the Telly Awards with a record 14,362 entries from all fifty states and around the world.

Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards honors local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, film and video productions, and web commercials, videos and films.

OHSP garnered the award for its PSA titled "Rollover-Emily," featuring crash footage and a testimonial to seat belts by a west Michigan woman involved in a horrific rollover crash that was captured on a law enforcement in-car camera. The PSA was produced by Such Video, Inc., of Lansing.

A judging panel of over forty accomplished industry professionals, each a past winner of a Silver Telly, the top honor, judged the competition. Judges evaluated entries to recognize distinction in creative work - entries do not compete against each other - rather entries are judged against a high standard of merit.

Two Michigan agencies honored in IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge

Two Michigan law enforcement agencies received recognition in the 2006 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) National Law Enforcement Challenge.

The IACP is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies across the country. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. Departments submit an application which documents their agency's efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information, and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

The Dearborn Police Department received a Commercial Vehicle Safety Award and the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Office received third place in its category.



Traffic Safety Summit slated for March 11-13

The Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is March 11-13, 2008, at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing. More information regarding the Summit will be posted to www.michigan.gov/ohsp in the coming months.

OHSP offers new traffic safety publications



Five new publications have been added to the Office of Highway Safety Planning Traffic Safety Materials Catalog.

The publications include updated pedestrian and bicycle safety brochures, and a new flyer about the dangers of driving drunk. Other recent

additions are two new posters; one urging motorcyclists to get their motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license and another reminding teens that being caught drinking alcohol before they are 21 has serious consequences.

A copy of the OHSP materials catalog and order forms can be found online at www.michigan.gov/ohsp, click on Traffic Safety Materials.

SAFETY Network

Two Michigan prosecutors honored by MADD

Two Michigan lawyers were honored with the Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Michigan Life Saver Award for Prosecutors at the prosecutors' annual state conference in July. The award recognizes those who exhibit outstanding dedication and excellence in the prosecution of drunk drivers and in providing justice for drunk driving victims.

Daniel Rose, assistant prosecutor and supervising attorney for the Livingston County District Court, was honored for his extraordinary commitment in developing a difficult to prosecute drunk driving

case into a successful conclusion while still maintaining his normal caseload. Through his tireless efforts, Rose was able to ensure justice was served.

Michael Kanaby, assistant prosecuting attorney for Kalamazoo County, was honored for his dedication to the aggressive prosecution of drunk drivers, and his commitment to their victims and the victim's families. It was noted that in one particular case, Kanaby was able to achieve a successful prosecution despite significant legal issues involving the case.



Daniel Rose



Michael Kanaby



New brochure provides safety tips for kids around cars

When it comes to protecting children in and around cars, parents and other adults are the most important safety feature available to children.

This and other safety tips are available in a brochure developed by the Automotive Coalition of Traffic Safety (ACTS). The brochure is in response to a survey of 900 parents of children ages 12 and younger designed to determine perceived risks and parental behavior.

According to Phil Haseltine, ACTS president, one out of 10 motor vehicle-related child fatalities occur in places like driveways and parking lots. And in many cases, these kinds of tragedies involve an unsupervised child.

For more information or copies of the brochure, visit www.safetyfeature.org.

Traffic Crash Facts website receives national recognition

The Michigan Traffic Crash Facts Web page was awarded first place in the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP) Best Practices competition. The competition was sponsored by ATSIP and the National Safety Council.

Traffic Crash Facts is a joint project between the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). Through grant funding from OHSP, UMTRI maintains day-to-day web page operations, while UMTRI and OHSP

jointly determine updates and additions to the site. The site is visited more than 2,600 times per week.

The website contains 14 years worth of Michigan traffic crash data broken down in several categories. It also features a search tool for users to generate their own reports and will soon include a mapping tool for crash data.

To find out more, visit www.michigan-trafficcrashfacts.org

Kuska garners injury prevention award



Thelma Kuska, Regional Program Manager for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Great Lakes Region office, has been selected as the recipient of the 2007 Emergency Nurses Association Barbara A. Foley Injury Prevention Leadership Award.

Kuska is the state designee for Michigan, and serves as the contact person between the regional office and the Mich-

igan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Kuska is an R.N. with experience in emergency nursing. Prior to joining NHTSA's Great Lakes Region office, she spent much of her time speaking to teens about underage drinking as part of the Emergency Nurses Association's program "Choices for Living."

A certified child passenger safety (CPS) technician instructor, Kuska was the first NHTSA Region representative named to the National CPS Board.

SAFETY Network

OHSP Staff:

| Contact | Program Area | Phone | E-mail |
|--|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| Michael L. Prince | Division Director | (517) 333-5301 | princem@michigan.gov |
| Deborah Sonnenberg | Executive Secretary | (517) 333-5301 | sonnenbD@michigan.gov |
| COMMUNICATIONS SECTION | | | |
| Anne Readett | Section Manager | (517) 333-5317 | readetta@michigan.gov |
| Jonathan Benallack | Graphic Designer | (517) 333-5992 | benallackj1@michigan.gov |
| Kim Harris-Burrows | Secretary | (517) 333-5325 | harriskk@michigan.gov |
| Elaine Keilen | Secretary | (517) 333-5325 | keilene@michigan.gov |
| Nikki Klemmer | Media Relations and Outreach | (517) 333-5304 | klemmern@michigan.gov |
| Lynn Sutfin | Public Information and Marketing | (517) 333-5754 | sutfinl@michigan.gov |
| FISCAL SECTION | | | |
| Kim Kelly | Section Manager | (517) 333-5305 | kellykw@michigan.gov |
| Julie Botsford | Secondary Road Patrol | (517) 333-5333 | botsfordj@michigan.gov |
| Sandy Eyre | Secretary | (517) 333-5303 | eyres@michigan.gov |
| Karen Richardson | Accounting Technician | (517) 333-5332 | richardk@michigan.gov |
| Spencer Simmons | Accountant | (517) 333-5326 | simmonssj@michigan.gov |
| PLANNING AND PROGRAM OPERATIONS SECTION | | | |
| Kathy Farnum | Section Manager | (517) 333-5316 | farnumk@michigan.gov |
| Pat Carrow | Safe Communities, School Bus Safety, Mature Drivers | (517) 333-5315 | carrowp@michigan.gov |
| Steve Schreier | Engineering, Traffic Crash Data, Pedestrians | (517) 333-5306 | schreies@michigan.gov |
| Pietro Semifero | Information Collection and Analysis | (517) 333-5320 | semiferp@michigan.gov |
| Arlene Turner | Secretary | (517) 333-5334 | turnera@michigan.gov |
| Dan Vartanian | Corporate Outreach, Network of Employers for Traffic Safety | (517) 333-5322 | vartanid@michigan.gov |
| GRANT MANAGEMENT UNIT | | | |
| Deborah Savage | Unit Manager | (517) 333-5324 | savaged@michigan.gov |
| Jamie Dolan | Upper Peninsula Traffic Safety Coordinator | (906) 225-7036 | dolanj@michigan.gov |
| Pat Eliason | Police Traffic Services Coordinator | (517) 333-5318 | eliasonp@michigan.gov |
| Jason Hamblen | Impaired Driving, Motorcycle Safety, Adjudication | (517) 333-5319 | hamblenj@michigan.gov |
| Michael Harris | Law Enforcement Liaison Coordinator | (517) 333-4417 | harrismichael@michigan.gov |
| Dianne Perukel | Youth Alcohol, Bicycle Safety, Young Drivers | (517) 333-5337 | perukeld@michigan.gov |
| Brenda Roys | Grants Technician | (517) 333-5302 | roysb@michigan.gov |
| Alicia Sledge | Occupant Protection, Child Passenger Safety, EMS | (517) 333-5321 | sledgea@michigan.gov |

Safety Network is published by the
Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
Editor: Lynn Sutfin
Designer: Jon Benallack

Office of Highway Safety Planning
4000 Collins Road, P.O. Box 30633
Lansing, MI 48909-8133
(517) 336-6477